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Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 30 Years of Leadership & Advocacy



MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:15 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 17, SEPTEMBER 21, NOVEMBER 16, AND DECEMBER 21, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meetings of August 17, September 21, November 16, and December 21, 2005 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Teddie Joy-Remhild – Announced that the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) in conjunction with the California Health Incentives Improvement Project will be conducting a series of trainings on the 250% California Working Disabled Program. The trainings are being held to demonstrate how recipients of Medi-Cal can earn a paycheck and still maintain their benefits. The sessions, which will be held at local colleges, are scheduled as follows:

March 30	West Los Angeles College	(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
April 3	Glendale Community College	(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
April 6	Cal State Los Angeles	(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
April 7	Cal State Long Beach	(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

For more information contact PASC at (877) 565-4477.

Linda Block - Spoke about SB 1932, and the True Enforcement Security Act.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

a. Approval to begin Fundraiser Search for 2006 Access Awards

On motion of Commissioner Krzyzanowski, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to begin the fundraiser search for 2006.

b. Approval to reserve the Fifth Floor Dining Room of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

On motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner Krzyzanowski and duly carried (Commissioner Rubenstein abstained), the Commission voted to host the luncheon in the Fifth Floor Dining Room of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

c. Discussion of establishing a Speaker's Bureau within the Commission

On motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner Troost and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to establish a Speaker's Bureau within the Commission and explore the feasibility of reimbursing speakers for their travel expenses.

d. Update on KTYM Radio Program

Chair Neal reported that the program is going well and has continued to address current topics of interest to people with disabilities as well as had many prominent guests from the community on the program to give presentations and address caller's concerns and questions.

Chair Neal announced that the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, Violet Varona, will be retiring from the County after 38 years of services. Ms. Varona spent most of her time with the County as the Division Chief of Commission Services, working with the various Commissioners and Commissions staffed by that division. Chair Neal is proposing that the Commission purchase a table at Ms. Varona's retirement luncheon in recognition of her service with the County and work with the Commission.

Because this is a time sensitive issue which arose following the posting of the agenda, Chair Neal requested approval from the Commission to add this item to today's agenda for consideration.

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Weller

and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to place this item on the agenda for discussion.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Vice Chair Rubenstein and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to purchase a table for Commissioners to attend the event.

STAFF REPORT

Staff announced the following:

ASI has sent an announcement alerting its riders about the agency's loss of personal customer information that may make them vulnerable to identify theft. Patrons of ASI have been asked to: 1) contact the California Office of Privacy Protection at (866) 785-9663; 2) order their credit report from the three credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and Trans-Union and; 3) review the reports carefully for any unauthorized transactions, and to review the credit reports again in three months. For further information contact ASI at (800) 827-0829.

Information was also provided on the Emergency MMA Drug Supply Program Period Extension.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE OFFICE (OAAC)

Kurt Hagen, ADA representative, OAAC, reported the following:

- He has spoken with the Building Manager for the Hall of Administration about the condition and the upkeep of the elevator for people with disabilities located on Grand Avenue. The Building Manager stated that he will ensure that the elevator is properly cleaned and maintained daily.
- The OAAC continues to work with County departments on Transition Plans for barrier removal, ADA compliance enforcement, provide technical assistance and disability awareness training and review ADA complaints.

Mr. Hagen also announced that his office has been working with the Office of Emergency Management on updating County policy, procedures and guidelines, on the appropriate evacuation of people with disabilities in the event of an emergency. An Emergency Preparedness Disability Advisory Committee has been formed to assess the

matter and make recommendations to the full County-Wide Emergency Management Council which will ultimately create the policy for the County.

An ad-hoc Disability Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from several County departments, has been created to develop the guidelines, and have recommended that two members from the Commission on Disabilities be appointed to the committee group as well.

Following discussion, Chair Neal, Vice-Chair Rubenstein and Commissioner Weller (Alternate) were assigned to work with the Disability Advisory Committee. Mr. Hagen will notify the Commissioners of the upcoming meeting dates.

Mr. Hagen also reminded the Commission and audience to use politically correct words when referring to people with disabilities and for the staff to eliminate the usage of the term "handicap" from future meeting minutes. It was noted that the publication titled "Unhandicapping Our Language" is a good resource to use to find the appropriate words to describe various types of disabilities.

Chair Neal raised the issue about the accessibility of the Hall of Administration. She commented that although the Hall has accessible entrances, she finds the entrances to be difficult to find, difficult to maneuver, and a long distance away from the parking structures. In addition, Chair Neal stated that there should be some type of directional signs posted that show the accessible paths which lead to the building. Mr. Hagen said he would look into the matter and report back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported the following:

- The Public Relations Committee will be developing the Speaker's Bureau list.
- Last year, the Committee participated at several workshops and community events as exhibitors and was able to distribute the Commission brochure and promote the work of the Commission.
- At the Committee's next meeting, they will be discussing their strategic plan, goals and objectives for 2006.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Discussion of whether to modify criteria for the Tainter Scholarship

Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding a guideline to the scholarship criteria

which would require the winners to provide feedback regarding their

Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities
Minutes for the Meeting of January 18, 2006
Page 5

college experience and progress. Commissioners agreed that some type of “follow – up” guideline should be developed and added to the existing scholarship criteria. In addition, Commissioners discussed the possibility of being mentors to the winners as well as consider one of them to fill the Youth representative seat on the Commission.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report

Teddie Remhild reported the following:

- A new Deputy Executive Director has been appointed to ASI.
- ASI is planning to hold six community meetings to discuss policies and procedures and ways to enhance ADA para transit services.
- The next ASI Board meeting is January 23, 2006.

Commissioner Hamilton offered comments about several issues regarding ASI which included: recent problems he experienced with ASI’s service delivery; ASI’s response to his service complaint; the possibility of the Commission creating a survey form to better assess the service satisfaction of ASI users; the development of some type of reality film documenting the experience of a rider as they use ASI; and conduct a site visit or tour of one of the paratransit companies to review its operational structure.

Commissioner Hamilton also commented that he feels ASI does not provide personalized customer service to its patrons and most complaints are answered with a standard form letter or not given the attention it deserves.

Commissioner Krzyzanowski commented that he was previously involved with a mental health client coalition that had prepared a survey form to determine how people with psychiatric disabilities were faring with ADI. He suggested the survey form could be modified for use by the Commission.

Geetu Roy, ASI, commented that she will inform her administrators about the Commission’s concerns expressed today, and commented that ASI appreciates the feedback it receives from its ridership. In addition, Ms. Roy offered to arrange a workshop specifically for the Commission to learn about the agency’s structure, procedures and complaint process.

Following discussion, it was agreed to refer Commissioner Hamilton’s concerns and issues with ASI to the Transportation Committee for review.

Disabled Parking Enforcement

Carried over to next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hamilton thanked the Commissioners who attended the scroll presentation to the representatives from the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza on January 17th. Chair Neal commented that the mall has come a long way with its accessibility efforts and many of the plaza's major department stores and supermarkets are also doing well with ADA compliance.

Commissioner Krzyzanowski announced that he recently attended the statewide Respectability Coalition Conference, and also attended the Client Forum hosted by the California Network of Mental Health Clients.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet Neal, Chair
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
Richard Krzyzanowski
John B. Troost
Kecia Weller
Sheila D. Wright

Board of Supervisors

Dedie Ward
Audra Galang

County of Los Angeles

Kurt Hagen

Excused Absent

None

Unexcused Absent

Ruth Ann Acosta
Carlton L. Russell
Wendy Welt

Guests

Phyllis Coto
In Young Choe
Maria N. Tan
Roné C. Ellis
Teddie Joy Remhild
Royce Crowder
Gary Barnett
Carlton Linda
Geetu Roy
Veronica D. Way

Donald Brandon